



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES**

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Brussels,  
MARE.B1

Mr António Schiappa Cabral  
Chairman of LDRAC  
C/del Dr Fleming nº7, 2º derecho  
28036 Madrid  
SPAIN

**Subject: Your letter of 28 August 2012 containing the LDRAC recommendation on the next NAFO Annual Meeting (17-21 September 2012, St. Petersburg, Russia).**

Dear Mr Schiappa Cabral,

Thank you very much for your letter of 28 August 2012 containing the LDRAC recommendations for the next NAFO Annual Meeting, to be held on 17-21 September 2012 in St Petersburg, Russia. I would also like to thank the LDRAC for the very useful discussions in the technical meeting that my services held with you on 27 August. As usual both industry and NGOs provided comprehensive explanations for their recommendations and interesting background information on the nature of the fishery in the NAFO Convention Area.

I wish to underline the great importance we attach to the advice provided by the LDRAC and would like to assure you that we have studied your position on the issues at stake in great detail in view of preparing the EU position for the Annual Meeting together with the Member States.

I appreciate that LDRAC is presenting diverging views within this body in a transparent manner. However, it would be preferable to reach a unanimous agreement, in particular on the TACs of key stocks as cod in division 3M, redfish in divisions 3LN and thorny skates or the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). I would kindly encourage LDRAC to strive at achieving a greater coherence of views in the future.

Finally, I would like to assure you that the EU Delegation to NAFO will continue to be at your disposal during the remainder of the Annual Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

  
Lowri EVANS

Copy: S. Depypere, R. Cesari, V. Veits, A. Kordecka, N. Dross, E. Bianchi, C. Dale.  
O. Fachada